



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 October 1980

Dear Nicholas

Thank you for your letter of 19 September about the possibility of members of Nea Demokratia (ND) joining the European Democratic Group (EDG) in the European Parliament.

I was able to raise this with the Greek Prime Minister during my visit to Athens and to ask him whether the members of ND intended to join the EDG. Mr. Rallis told me that this was a decision for the party rather than for him. Their intention was to act as an independent group following their arrival in the European Parliament and to postpone a decision as to which political grouping they would join until they had acquired some experience of the situation. I do not think that ND will change this position at present and would not be inclined to push too hard to do so. Although Mr. Rallis did not make the point, they may well intend to wait until the elections have been held in Greece next spring before taking the matter any further.

I am writing in similar terms to Diana Elles and James Scott-Hopkins, from whom I have had letters on the same subject.

Yours ever

MT

The Lord Bethell

jfh